

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Discover local woodpeckers at free nature lecture

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (March 8, 2011) – Noted ornithologist and nature writer, Cliff Shackelford, shares a rare view of a fascinating species at the free program, Knock on Wood: The Woodpeckers of Texas, on Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at McCullough Jr. High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Drive. From the charming downy to the striking pileated, woodpeckers entertain and intrigue.

With beautiful photography and bird calls, Mr. Shackelford will reveal the eight species of woodpeckers that occur in The Woodlands, one of the most diverse areas for woodpeckers in Texas. He will highlight the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker that nests in the area, and the possibly-extinct ivory-billed woodpecker, which once roamed the great forests of East Texas.

State ornithologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Mr. Shackelford has authored more than 60 publications on birds and birding. He published his first bird book, Hummingbirds of Texas, at the age of 37.

Guaranteed to appeal to all ages and levels of interest in nature, the Walk in the Woods Nature Lecture is a free program of The Woodlands Township sponsored by Waste Management, The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N., Hilton Garden Inn and The Pineywoods Nursery. For more information, please call The Woodlands Township Environmental Services at 281-210-3900 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

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PHOTO: The red-headed woodpecker is an occasional visitor at backyard feeders. Learn more about the eight species found in The Woodlands when Cliff Shackelford with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department appears at McCullough Junior High School at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2011.

